



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC -8 2003

OFFICE OF
PREVENTION, PESTICIDES AND
TOXIC SUBSTANCES

Susan L. Hall
Legal Counsel
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals
501 Front Street
Norfolk, VA 23510

Dear Ms. Hall:

Thank you for your letter of October 31, 2003 regarding membership of the National Pollution Prevention and Toxics Advisory Committee (NPPTAC). In your letter, you request that some or all of the individuals nominated by the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) - Ms. Sandler and Mr. Seidle of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) - be retroactively appointed to the Committee.

The NPPTAC was established in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), 5 U.S.C. App. 2. In seeking nominations for membership, EPA solicited nominations from many sources, including the public (through the Federal Register notice) to establish a large pool of diverse candidates from which to make selections. As a result of this process, a large number of highly qualified individuals were nominated.

EPA selected sixteen individuals to serve as members of NPPTAC. In evaluating the nominations, EPA considered a number of factors including (but not limited to): each person's leadership experience, breadth of knowledge of issues that the Committee would likely address, and experience with environmental or public health policy, issues, or research associated with chemicals, pollution prevention, health, or the environment in communities, States, national or international arenas. EPA also considered points of view represented so that, in accordance with FACA, the Committee would be balanced.

Dr. Rowan's credentials, experience, and expertise in alternatives to animal testing for toxicity and risk assessment, both nationally and internationally, make him extremely well qualified to serve in the NPPTAC and, as a member, to address the broad environmental and public policy issues relating to the overall policy and programs of the Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics (OPPT). Also, we are confident that Dr. Rowan, as representative of animal welfare stakeholders, will voice the viewpoints and recommendations of PETA and other animal welfare organizations during the NPPTAC's deliberations. In addition, PETA, as any

other member of the public, is always welcome to attend the meetings and provide written or oral comments. The Committee will consider all comments submitted by the public during its deliberations. Further, the Committee has invited Mr. Seidle to serve in the High Production Volume (HPV) Workgroup.

In your letter you requested that EPA distribute Dr. Rowan's October letter to the NPPTAC members. We will distribute copies of the letter that we received by facsimile. Also we have posted this copy the letter in the NPPTAC docket. Finally, attached please find a copy of the response to Dr. Rowan for your information.

Sincerely,



Charles M. Auer

Director

Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics

Enclosures